

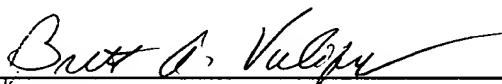
resonator surrounded by the pump fiber. These elements are related to each other since the pump fiber is described as surrounding the fiber core resonator.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wach.

Wach is completely irrelevant to the claimed invention at least for the following reason. There is not even a single hint anywhere in Wach to provide pump fiber surrounding a laser resonator in the manner recited in the claims. Wach is simply not directed to a fiber laser pump fiber surrounding a fiber laser resonator, does not even mention reducing pump light at the exit of the laser resonator, and does not even hint at not providing a portion of the sheath to reduce pump light interference.

Allowance of all claims in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



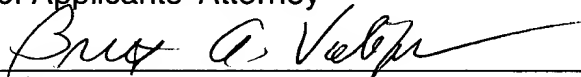
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on January 21, 2003.

Brett A. Valiquet

Name of Applicants' Attorney



Signature

January 21, 2003

Date